

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of operating at least two markets on a platform comprising a computer system, the method comprising:

automatically, using at least one computer, representing an order for an item simultaneously in a first market and a second market, ~~each of~~ wherein the first and second markets ~~being able to execute the order and~~ are operating independently of each other on the computer system and the order is simultaneously available for execution in both the first and second markets to complete a trade for the item in the order, [[and]]

automatically, using at least one computer, controlling the execution of the order to ~~ensuring~~ ensure the order is executed in at most one of the first and second markets, and

automatically, using at least one computer, reporting the execution of the order and the market in which the order was executed.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the first and second markets operates according to a two phase action protocol, and the automatically ~~ensuring~~ controlling the execution of the order includes, in a first phase, obtaining permission to act from a controlling process, and in a second phase, executing the order only if permission is obtained.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the permission is an affirmation to act upon a specified number of shares of the order.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the controlling process is a trading process.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the controlling process is a market process.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the markets is in fast symbol mode in which all orders posted at the one market are assumed available for immediate execution, and the automatically ~~ensuring~~ controlling the execution of the order includes canceling the order from the fast symbol market before executing in the other of the markets.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically ~~ensuring~~ controlling the execution of the order includes determining whether the order is in process at another market.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the order includes an order tail indicating the markets in which ~~[[it]]~~ the order is represented.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a platform process maintains a market file indicating the markets in which an order is represented, and wherein the automatically ~~ensuring~~ controlling the execution of the order includes checking the market file.

10. (Currently amended) A method of representing an order for an item in at least two markets, comprising:

automatically, using at least one computer, sending the order to at least two markets for simultaneous representation of the order in the at least two markets, ~~each of wherein~~ wherein the at least two markets ~~being able to execute the order and~~ are operating independently of each other and the order is simultaneously available for execution in the at least two markets to complete a trade for the item in the order, [[and]]

automatically, using at least one computer, controlling the execution of the order to ~~ensuring~~ ensure that executing authority for the order is in a single point, and

automatically, using at least one computer, receiving a report of the execution of the order and the market in which the order was executed.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the single point is a trading process.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the order is associated with information indicating where execution authority for the order resides.
13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the associated information indicates whether any market at which the order is represented is in process, and the single point is the in process market.
14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the associated information is used to determine whether a process can declare itself to be the single point.
15. (Currently amended) A method ~~of representing in which~~ an order is simultaneously represented in at least two markets, comprising:  
automatically, using at least one computer, receiving an inquiry from one of the at least two markets to confirm the availability of the order for execution in the one market, wherein the at least two markets are operating independently of each other and the order is simultaneously available for execution in the at least two markets,  
~~automatically, using at least one computer, affirming availability of a specified number of shares of the order to one of the at least two markets~~ the one market, ~~each of the at least two markets being able to execute the order and operating independently of each other; and~~  
~~automatically, using at least one computer, receiving a pairing report from the one market for at least one of the affirmed shares.~~
16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising automatically canceling the paired shares from another of the at least two markets.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising placing in a queue an instruction to cancel at least one of the paired shares ~~in a queue~~ when the other market has indicated that the at least one paired share was in process at the other market.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising checking availability of the shares before automatically affirming.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the checking availability is based on a number of unpaired shares of the order and a number of in process shares of the order.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising marking shares as in process after affirming their availability.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the shares are marked as in process for the market to which the shares were affirmed, and further comprising summing the in process shares at all of the markets at which the order is represented to obtain an in process number of shares.

22. (Currently amended) A method of executing an order in a market, comprising:  
automatically, using at least one computer, at a receiving market that operates on a computer system, receiving the order from a source, the order being simultaneously represented in at least two markets that operate independently of each other on the same computer system, the receiving market being one of the at least two markets and ~~are each able to execute~~ the order being simultaneously available for execution in the at least two markets to complete a trade,

automatically, using at least one computer, determining whether the receiving market has authority to execute the order, [[and]]

automatically, using at least one computer, executing the order after the receiving market has determined that it has authority to execute the order and canceling the order in the other of the at least two markets, and

automatically, using at least one computer, reporting the execution of the order.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the determining includes affirming availability of the order with the source.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the determining includes checking whether another market has authority to execute the order based on information associated with the order.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the checking includes examining an order tail.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the checking includes examining a central order file.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein automatically determining includes canceling the order from other markets at which it is represented before the order is executed at the receiving market.

28-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:  
at least one computer having a processing component configured to operate a first market and a second market at which market participants can trade, wherein the processing component is further configured to receive an order from a market participant and simultaneously represent the order in both the first market and the second market, the first and second markets each

operating independently of the other on the computer and ~~each being capable of executing the order~~ the order being simultaneously available for execution in both the first and second markets to complete a trade, said processing component being further configured to control the execution of the order to ensure that the order is executed in at most one of the first and second markets.

32. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the first or second market that ~~intends to execute~~ executes the order is an executing market, and wherein the processing component is configured to ~~ensure that~~ control the execution of the order ~~is executed in at most one of the first and second markets~~ by determining, prior to executing the order, whether the executing market has authority to execute the order.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the processing component is further configured to cancel the order from the other of the first or second market at which the order is represented before executing the order at the executing market.